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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1494
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0167
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3671
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6088
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1543
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q AFGHANISTAN - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: There were no papers published Monday morning because of a press holiday. Top stories on Japanese TV included IAEA Director-General ElBaradei's departure from Geneva to Pyongyang for talks with DPRK officials on the six-party agreement.

¶1. "Afghanistan: Resurgence of Terrorist Organizations Cannot Be Ignored" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri editorialized (3/11): "The Taliban, which once controlled Afghanistan, and al-Qaeda are rapidly regaining influence in that country. While the Taliban are reported to be preparing for a spring offensive, there are concerns that al-Qaeda is looking for new opportunities for terrorism.... The suicide bombing that took place near a US military base north of Kabul during Vice President Cheney's visit points to the Taliban's growing influence. A resurgence of these two terrorist organizations would pose a serious threat to the security of the world. The international community needs to refocus efforts to eradicate terrorism.... Afghan President Karzai also has problems to resolve. He must get eliminate the corruption rampant in his government as soon as possible. As things stand, Afghanistan's reconstruction is proving difficult."

SCHIEFFER